

The Washington Times

Entered as second class matter at the Post-office at Washington, D. C.
Published Every Evening (Including Sundays)
By The Washington Times Company,
MUNSEY BUILDING, Pennsylvania Avenue.
FRANK A. MUNSEY, President
R. H. TITHERTON, Secretary
FRED A. WALKER, Treasurer
One Year (Including Sundays), \$1.50.
Six Months, \$1.00. Three Months, 50c.
FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1917.

Pacific Submarine Bases

If a U-boat has been reported in the Pacific, as San Francisco tells us that Government wireless warnings announce, the question arises where the supposed hostile craft could make its base. Without a harbor in which to refit at frequent intervals the U-boat is soon as helpless as a fish out of water.

Major Burke, Peacemaker.

Major John M. Burke, scout and Indian fighter and Wild West show promoter, did not long survive the death of his old comrade in arms and in spectacular reproduction of the old life of the plains, Buffalo Bill. He died yesterday in Washington of pneumonia, at the age of seventy-four.

Setting the Example of Economy

Those who know the White House under the present Administration have recognized the simplicity of life that is the good fashion there. The complaint in times of peace has rather been that large social functions have been all too rare. But now in the time of war, when waste has become criminal for any American patriot, the example of the mistress of the White House and of the ladies of the Cabinet in pledging themselves, to strictest domestic economy, especially in the matters of food and raiment, will go far to set before the people of the country the imperative need of learning how to live without waste.

America does not know what the future holds for her and for her allies in the matter of the food supply alone. Every pound of food that can be spared here will be needed in Europe. Every man and woman worker now employed in the manufacture and distribution of luxuries will be needed for more useful and more pressing tasks. There can be nothing more wholesome than the practice from now on of the most rigid economy on the part of the well-to-do as there has to be on the part of those less fortunate. The ladies of the White House and of the Cabinet will not have to learn a new lesson for themselves as they have been trained to the simplicity of life that adds distinction to what are still called the "learned professions." The announcement of the new economy pledge should have a far-reaching influence for good.

Why Not King Albert?

The American people will gladly welcome Foreign Secretary Balfour of the British cabinet and the former premier of France, M. Viviani. Mr. Balfour will emphasize the fact, mentioned yesterday by Lloyd George, that for the first time in a century and a half the British and the Americans find themselves comrades in arms, though Americans will never forget that on more than one occasion Great Britain has spoken to the toast, "Blood is thicker than water." M. Viviani will revive old memories of Benjamin Franklin at the French court, though the alliance which Franklin's genius made possible with France has already been virtually made in the union of the civilized world against the German government.

But if the allies desire to send to America a personage who will arouse the enthusiasm of the American people from either Portland to the Gulf, let them send King Albert of Belgium. He might be persuaded to leave the little corner of his country that has not been despoiled by the Hun for such a mission if he

could understand what it would mean to America and to the cause of the allies. His presence would be an incarnate welcome. His voice would be an inspiring appeal.

It may be too late for him to accompany the commissioners who, it is understood, are already on the way. But his heroic conduct, his democratic habits, and his exalted patriotism are as well known and almost as much appreciated in America as in Belgium itself. If the allies wish to stir the United States to every possible manifestation of devotion to the common cause, let King Albert be sent to our welcoming shores.

Military Service and Military Training

In normal times, with ordinary expectations of being drawn into war against a first class power, the argument for universal military training is of great weight. Nevertheless, a great number of patriotic Americans who are in favor of universal military service and recognize the immediate need for raising an immense army for the present emergency, are opposed to universal military training. They argue that it runs all of our American youth through the same mold, that it does not regard differences of temperament or of home training, and especially that it consumes an unreasonable amount of time, when those who enter professional life, especially, find now so long and arduous a course of study ahead of them before they can enter upon the practice of their profession. The same argument holds good for those who have begun to learn a trade and whose course of service in that trade will be interrupted. Those opposed to universal military service who are not ultra-pacifists believe in a larger standing army of professional soldiers recruited from among those who voluntarily choose the profession of arms.

But whatever the fate of universal military training may be, the demand for universal military service is immediate and absolute; the nation is calling for men to fill the ranks of her army. The Administration, backed by the War Department, is insistent upon the system of selective draft which is based upon the registration of the military population. The two questions, therefore, of universal military training and of universal military service should not be confused in the public mind. When the war is over and peace has been declared, the problems of military training may or may not be taken up. It will depend somewhat upon the outcome of the war, upon the formation of a league of nations in the cause of peace, but for immediate purposes we should have a large, well-trained army, larger than that of both the Federal and Confederate veterans at the close of the civil war.

The argument against the selective draft system that in the South it will compel the creation of negro regiments and divisions is merely a demagogic effort to escape responsibility, when made by any genuine Southern man. Any one acquainted with negro character knows that the negro returning from army discipline is a better citizen than he was before having learned the habit of obedience to authority. A selective draft which recognizes the need for increasing the food supply will probably confine itself to the negroes of the cities as distinguished from those at present at work on the farm. That the negroes make good soldiers when led by white officers has been attested on too many occasions to admit of doubt. They should be allowed their share in defending the nation that has done so much for their race.

Yes, it is true one of the new employments of women in big buildings is highly elevating. But half their work is taking people down.

The railways' announcement that they are ready to move troops should inspire the Government to renewed efforts to provide the troops.

"Welcome" was never written on our doormat for Tarnowski, and we'll be genuinely glad to see him go.

That Kansas farmer who got the first loan under the new Federal farm loan act pronounces "Uncle Sam" with the accent on the "Uncle."

Many golf clubs are offering to raise vegetables. When the country needs a chain of truck gardens it's only right that they should furnish their links.

Cupid maintains his record as the best recruiting sergeant.

From Berlin's standpoint the Ed-dystone disaster was doubly successful, since most of its victims were women and girls.

The masters of seized enemy merchantmen are assuring Collector Malone volubly that there are no bombs aboard their craft, and Mr. Malone is taking their assurances for exactly what they're worth.

General Wood may have taken a much needed nap on the ball field, but nobody ever found him asleep, at the switch.

The plan to turn all Indiana into a big farm will stir to action the few remaining novelists who hadn't already bought country estates with their royalties.

Don Marquis' Column

We comply with a correspondent's request for the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner." It is a good time for every American to learn or relearn this national song. Here it is:

"The Star-Spangled Banner."

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
Thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen, thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows half conveys, half discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full blown reflected, now shines on the stream—
'Tis the star-spangled banner; oh, long may it wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us no more?

Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave,
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh, thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand,
Between their loved home and the world's desolation;
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land,
Praise the pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is Our Trust!"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Hindenburg's "triumphant retreat" is still a retreat.

When Germany gets her suffrage reform plans to working there are quite a lot of people in this country who will want to be going home to vote.

On the Fifth Floor.
Spring came in at the window
And made the curtains stir;
The gray old plants on the window sill,
Smiled for love of her.

"What matter," they said, "if the earth's far down,
And the sun won't shine this way,
When Spring comes in at the window
In the midst of a winter day?"

Spring came in at the window
And turned my papers dry,
My desk that is made from the wood
Of a tree
Spoke reproachfully.

"Here is an essay made out of ink,
And a poem and a book review,
When Spring comes in at the window
Is this what you should do?"

Spring came in at the window
And called me out by the door,
She pointed across to the Jersey side,
And today I write no more.

There's not so much as a bud on a tree,
We may have snow any day,
But Spring came in at the window,
And she's here in my heart to stay.

Corset Steel Saves Girl's Life.—
Headline.

Now what do you dress reformers have to say?

A Communication From Archy.
Well bosses been
Over to hobnob amongst the
germans when I came
back new york looked like a
foreign country to me I
worked up a good deal of
sympathy for some of them one
fellow in particular seemed
puzzled heinle he said to a
friend I am in deutch they
say I cant go within a
mile of any fort and I
dont know where the
forts are I have been going
around new york and new
jersey asking all the authorities I
could find for a map
showing all the american forts so
I could keep away from them and
they all laugh at me why
did they laugh

Are dramatic critics always as bored
as they seem to be?

The Turk seems about to join the
rank of those who cannot help but
weep when they hear "that bleated,
bleated word, Mesopotamia."

All property belonging to the erst-
while Czar has been confiscated. But
it is likely that the neighbors will
bring him in some food.

William Tator advertises a Potato
Farm for sale, and I. W. Barte
announces in a morning contemporary
that he has real estate for sale or ex-
change. "I wonder," writes I. Wonder,
"if Mr. Barte's middle name could be
Will?"

The baseball season peeps up like
a villain through the snow. This, we
are reliably informed, is its only re-
semblance to the popular flower men-
tioned.

Guatemala, Peru, and China are
thinking of coming in while the
water's fine.

The way the Patagonians and blond
Eskimos are hanging back is getting
to be a scandal.

Don Marquis.

BRITAIN MAY START BIG BONDS LOTTERY

Government is Considering Sug-
gestion Under Name of
"Premium Loan."

LONDON, April 13.—England may have some sort of a national lottery within a few months.

"Premium bonds," they call it, but that's only sugar coating.

The scheme is in effect a lottery, and the idea is to hit the gambling instinct to the nation's program for financing the war. All the people who have been studying it, no matter what their ideas may be about the moral, agree that it would bring in a tremendous amount of new money from sources that are most difficult to reach with ordinary investments.

The Government has been promulgating a few details for a government lottery. But in a general way it is suggested that something like this be undertaken:

A premium bond issue of, say, \$150,000,000 would be offered. The bonds instead of drawing the 5 per cent that is pledged on the recent huge war loan would draw 2 1/2 or 3 per cent. At the outset there would be set aside, say, \$2,000,000 as premium fund.

Everybody that bought a ticket would get his share of the bonds. In addition, he would get his proportionate chance in the drawing for the prizes.

It was suggested that the first prize should be \$500,000; second, perhaps \$100,000; then a series of \$5,000, \$10,000, \$500 and \$100 ones, running down, perhaps, to a long list of \$500 remembrances. A series of prizes aggregating the \$2,000,000 or whatever other amount might be set aside for this purpose.

The difference in rates of interest would be sufficient to pay the prizes, through the Government's saving; in fact, it has been calculated by some of the advocates of the scheme that it could be made to pay the premiums several times over. There would be no change in fixed interest, the proper Government functionaries overseeing the business.

For the time being, this lottery program is hung up because the immense success of the recent war loan, now calculated to have raised about \$4,000,000,000 from more than 4,000,000 investors, has provided for national requirements for a considerable time. But if the war has to be carried into next summer there will be need for all the money the public can be induced to bring in.

Demoralizing, but Profitable.
The best proof of the money raising possibilities of the lottery plan may be seen in the interest that is taken in discussion of it. Americans of a short generation's recollection will not need to be reminded what an army of confirmed lottery patrons there were when the old Louisiana Lottery was running. Thousands of people were buying tickets as regular investments for some pretty definite part of their surplus incomes; some of them were even of the careful class that was wont to invest the rest in regular, legitimate ways.

There is a bigger gambling class in England than in America. Racing is almost extinct as a gambling sport, and the race track following would be instantly interested in the chances of a great drawing. It would be a demoralizing business, but without doubt it would bring in vast sums from the savings of people who pay little attention to the possibilities of these war investments in the regular form.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Interesting Events of Importance Scheduled Today.

Community dance, Wilson Normal School, Eleventh and Harvard streets northwest, 8:30 p. m.
Spokane Retail Merchants' Association in regard to war situation, fourth floor Star building, 9 p. m.
Lecture on "Shakespeare and the Moral Law," by the Rev. Charles Wood, before Shakespeare Society, Colonial Theatre, 8:15 p. m.
Reunion of former students of general alumni association, George Washington University, Hancusky's, 8:15 p. m.
United States College of Veterinary Surgeons, Raleigh, 8 p. m.
Masonic Convention, No. 26, Takoma Chapter, No. 12, and Cathedral, No. 14, Order of the Eastern Star.

Rehearsal—Cathedral Lodge, No. 1, Rebekahs—Martha Washington Lodge, No. 2, and Dorcas, No. 4.
Knights of Pythias—Syracusanus Lodge, No. 10; Rathbone-Superior, No. 3; Rathbone Temple, No. 4; Pythian Sisters, No. 1; National Union—National Capital Council, No. 447; McKinley Council, No. 992; Georgetown Council, No. 1011.

Meeting of Women's Alliance of All Souls' Church, lecture room, Fourteenth and L streets northwest, 11 a. m.
Lecture on "International Exchange," by H. Parker Willis of the Federal Reserve Board, before Washington Chapter, American Institute of Banking, 1214 F street northwest, 8:15 p. m.

Benefit dance of George Washington University, 8:15 p. m.
Meeting of Continental Hall Committee, National Society of Daughters of American Revolution, Memorial Continental Hall, 9 p. m.

Amusements.
Belasco—"Flora Bell," 8:20 p. m.
New National—"Miss Springtime," 8:20 p. m.
The Palace—"The Playboys," 8:20 p. m.
The Chalmers—"The Playboys," 8:20 p. m.
The Keith—"The Playboys," 8:20 p. m.
The New Columbia—"The Playboys," 8:20 p. m.

Tomorrow.
Meeting to organize a local branch of American Red Cross, Animal Relief, offices of Washington Humane Society, 1502 H street northwest, 2 p. m.
Ninth annual students public concert of Washington College of Music, Masonic Temple auditorium, 8 p. m.
Theatricals and card party for benefit of Church of Blessed Sacrament, Chevy Chase, 8:30 p. m.
Lecture on "The War," by J. H. McFadden, Jr., of American Ambulance Field Service, 8:30 p. m.
Meeting of Cantor Washington, No. 1, Patriarchal Hall, 8:30 p. m.

Discussion of "Present Needs of the United States," by Dr. E. W. Jacobs and Dr. O. P. Manahan, Y. M. C. A., 8:30 p. m.
Annual public debate of Washington College of Music, 8:30 p. m.
Annual public debate of Washington College of Music, 8:30 p. m.

Meeting of Columbia Council, No. 44, and National Council, No. 40, National Union of Old Fellows—Canton Washington, No. 1, Patriarchal Hall, 8:30 p. m.

LETTERS TO THE TIMES FROM ITS READERS

Insurance Company Announces Removal of War Restrictions in Its Policies.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:
In a telegram received today the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company announces that until further notice all restrictions on military or naval service in time of war have been removed.

The company has been writing policies containing a provision that if the insured should actually enter military or naval service in time of war he should pay an additional premium of 3 per cent of the face of the policy. This restriction has been removed as to all outstanding policies of the company, and the company even goes further and announces that the restriction will be removed as to policies issued until further notice.

The officers and directors of the company have taken this step as a patriotic move, because they feel that they would thereby best represent the sentiments of their two hundred thousand policyholders.

Being a mutual company, the interests of the policyholders are necessarily borne by the whole body of policyholders, unless a large additional premium is charged to those who enlist. As an American company in every sense, and one which has never done business abroad, it now comes forward and offers to do its bit by continuing the insurance of those who go to the front, without placing upon them the burden of an additional war premium.

ORVILLE B. DROWN,
Washington Representative.

Says War Restrictions Have Been Removed From This Company's Policies.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:
I noticed in yesterday afternoon's issue of The Times an article headed "Insurance Rates Fixed for Soldiers."

I notice in this article that you state the State Mutual will accept no war risk, and if the holding of the policy agreement will refuse to pay any part of the policy except the return of premiums. This is an error, as the State Mutual wired me on April 4 as follows:

"War restriction removed from outstanding policies. Will advise later regarding new issues."

This telegram is signed by the president of the company. The State Mutual is a mutual company, and has been writing a war clause in their policies, covering war duties during the first year of their policies.

What they intend doing in reference to those who insure in the future, I do not know, but no doubt they will make some provision whereby they can serve enlisted men.

JOHN M. CHERRY,
General Agent.

Thinks Pension System Should Be Changed to Expedite.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:
Please allow me space to suggest to the President and his advisers how they may aid their program of preparedness. We all know that enlistments have been slow.

I will discuss what I believe to be one of the main causes why men do not more readily enlist. I have heard it stated many times that the common soldier gets shabby treatment during his service and no consideration from the Government after leaving the service.

The Pension Office requires in pensions claims a degree of proof stronger than is required in a court of law.

But, and this is the worst feature, a soldier may prove his case; then, when he happens to be left with a little group of clerks—who are, or may be under orders to keep the allowance down for the fiscal year—

to say whether or not the man is entitled "in a pensionary degree," from that autocratic decision an appeal lies, but it is like appealing from Phillip drunk to Phillip sober, as about one pension appeal in every hundred is allowed.

So, the man is wrong and ought to be remedied. It is unfair to ask a man to risk life and limb in defense of his country and then allow a few bureaucrats to deprive him of his just rewards. Men won't enlist while such a system prevails.

The Times, with its bold and outspoken sentiments and its patriotic stand on all questions, can render a great service to the nation and its defenders by calling attention of Congress to this evil in our pension system.

I want to thank The Times for its brave stand for American honor and American rights, and trust and believe your columns will take as bold a stand for the pensioners who are the risk of the hard fighting and the risk of all dangers in the coming world war.

CONSTANT READER.

Asks Public and Political Equality for the Colored American as Means of Insuring the Race's Loyalty in War With Germany.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:
Your editorial in Saturday's Times on the loyalty of the colored American, while a very interesting and timely contribution to his past history, does not, in my opinion, state the real reasons why the colored American will support the foreign policy of President Wilson in the present crisis.

By virtue of membership in the body politic of a sovereign and independent nation, the colored American is an "international citizen." There are those, especially in the Southern tier of our United States, who would deny him this status as a necessary corollary to the proposition that the national Constitution did not include the colored race as persons born and naturalized in the United States are citizens of the United States.

Happily this sentiment has never found any support in our Federal courts when it came to issue which the colored race has evaded. The colored American's title to citizenship, national and international, rests alone upon his nativity. Even prior to the civil war this was settled by the Supreme Court and by various acts of Congress. In fact, it has never been doubted by those in a position to know and to judge, although it has been attacked by a few self-seeking reactionaries who, by the substitution of the public issue of race hatred for race supremacy, made a denial of his national citizenship the basis of their rise to political power.

With the result of their work, and of our indifference, we are now, at this moment of national introspection, face to face. There is a fear, and a very widespread fear, that the colored American will seize a moment like this, when we are at war with a strong foreign power—Germany—to revenge himself for the indifference

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Neither the signature nor the address will be used when the writer requests elimination.

attitude of the whole nation toward the deprivation of his personal and political rights. Those persons who fear it most are those persons who under similar circumstances would take the action suggested. They are the same persons who fifty years ago actively sought the aid of Great Britain to accomplish national disintegration. They are the same persons whose representative of now oppose universal military training for private reasons other than patriotic.

"Sooner or later," wrote an inspired author, "the means which we adopt to ensure others, become the means of our own enslavement." Is this prophetic declaration now to be exemplified by a revolt of the colored American, or will he, assuming that repeated violation of his most sacred rights and privileges has obliterated the fundamental instinct of love of country, coldly weigh the gains of such a policy against the losses flowing from the perpetuation of the stifling, tyrannical doctrine of the "colored man?"

My belief is, that self-interest, if not love of his native land, will guide him to support the cause of the American. The "open sea" means the opportunity to flee at will from unjust laws, a continuing existence of small independent nations of his brethren in Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Liberia, continued freedom of intercourse with other peoples. All of these and many more things as vital to his life as to that of any other "international citizen."

Secondly, the colored American reads and ponders what he reads. He has not forgotten that it was the Imperial German government, isolated this nation to the neutral world that his advent upon the battlefields of Europe was the dawn of barbarism. Nor has he forgotten that when his brethren were struggling in the sea, that their ship had been torpedoed, it was German sailors who took a gleeful interest in seeing that they found a watery grave.

Undoubtedly, he will view the promises of political equality and equal public privileges in return for his support of the German cause as merely another "scrap of paper." He wants these fundamental weapons of citizenship and wants them badly, but he wants them from the high honor of an honest admission of his national citizenship and not as the price of treason, from an alien enemy, to the land he loves as strongly as any other person born upon its soil.

His loyalty will be the loyalty of intelligence rather than the loyalty of an ignorant dog who loves the hand that feeds him. No one upbraids more than he the high honor of guarding the National Capital and the person of the President from harm. No one deplores more than he the narrow unpatriotic attitude which says to him we may be able to find a place in the navy as a waiter. He wants to do his bit for the national defense as an equal, not as an inferior.

A third reason why the colored American will support President Wilson in his foreign policy lies in the fact that he is vitally interested in the rise and spread of democratic government. Equal rights and privileges is the corner stone of democracy. Political equality is what he needs for his own ends and those of his country. Its spread then throughout the world means that continued pressure from without will react beneficially on him. There is much in common in the sentimentality of the colored American and the former status of the Russian Jew. Both have tasted the bitter fruit of absolutism. The subjugation of America by Germany means nothing more to him than continued absolutism and probably a more ruthless autocrat.

While, on the other hand, making a common cause with his white brethren gives him an additional lash to apply to the conscience of the nation in his struggle for his "place in the sun."

German disaffectionists have very shrewdly calculated that the thing which would win the colored American to open revolt, or a studied campaign of inaction, was the thing which he desired most and was entitled to, but was denied him. The thing was the most fertile field for their doctrine of sedition was in the South. Knowing this why not beat the Teutons to it? This is a very practical opportunity for the white American to the allegiance of the colored man beyond all question. It is the special opportunity of the South. Has it the courage and patriotism to rise to it? Is there in the South, or in America, a national instinct which would lead the white man to the South's patriotic duty? Is there in this moment of national peril, a white man who will rise above provincialism and say to his own people that we ought to pledge ourselves and our country to the support of our actual and moral support to those only who accord to the colored American equal political rights and public privileges, that we will ourselves treat him with fairness and consideration, will help him overcome his weaknesses.

His strength, make him a friend and not an enemy of Anglo-Saxon civilization, for our own spiritual regeneration, for the security and defense of our common country and for our God?

GEORGE H. MURRAY.

Considers Suffragettes Tempt Fate Picketing the White House Gate.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:
It seems to me most indecorous and almost tempting to fate, that suffragettes should have to meet and picket the White House gate. Why do these women linger there? Haven't they either home or care? Or is it that they wish to be figured in wide publicity?

Let's look ahead a little way and see what they will have to say when children of a future year gather around their tales to hear. That time is surely going to come, and they'll be told of life and death, of men who fought and bled and died for the nation's honor, the country's pride.

What then shall these brave pickets tell to the children dear? Just that they stood at the wickets and sighed for the vote to appear. They cannot boast of a duty performed for their country's need. Their present act lacks beauty and reek of political expediency.

Supposing that all the time they spend watching the White House

gates was put into learning to sew and mend—could they help their mates? Supposing they gave their banners a toss over the White House wall, and actively worked for our Red Cross and answered their country's call.

A deed like that would, in future day, give to their waning years, a chance to say that they trod the way that the red-blooded patriot treads. Then why not now the cause avow and with your woman's might, answer the call that went out to all—go into the game and fight.

C. R. W.

Urges Universal Training as Means of Bringing a Unified National Spirit.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:
I have observed this war at close range, having dodged shells upon the European front and having visited the camps, munition works and hospitals of England and France. I have seen the wounded and the dead, the widows and orphans, and the ruins not only of buildings but of broad fields—none of the pomp and circumstances of war but all of its horror.

Again and again I have heard the remark "If England had only listened to Lord Roberts! If we had only been ready this would never have happened!"

I quickly became convinced that what I saw was no more the result of war than it was the result of the pacifist. Noble buildings which were the work of the imagination of the modern pacifist. His smooth face and his calm voice, as much devoted to the work of the imagination of the modern pacifist as the Kaiser.

Since returning from battle scarred Europe I have traveled our own land from North to South and from East to West. Everywhere I find prosperity, but there is lacking that presence of national soul which we have the strength to make those ideals something more than idle dreams.

We only value that which has cost us something. Let every young man give but his little share of time and work to the United States and he will become a true patriot. The plan proposed is so simple, so small in cost and so immeasurably great in value that it should not be necessary for a single man to raise his voice in its favor. Even if no emergency were now apparent, universal training should be adopted without delay for the unifying effects that it would bring to our people, and even if we could see in it no such spiritual benefit it should be adopted to straighten the backs and lift the chests of our slouching boys and to teach them the first principles of hygiene.

There can be but little doubt that our Congressmen are individually in favor of this measure, but perhaps they are not sure of the attitude toward it of those whom they represent. In this case it may be suggested to them that they visualize the supporters and the opponents of universal service. In one rank are seen those whose faces are bright with knowledge and ennobled by the desire to serve. In the opposing ranks are the unenlightened, those who have never felt the thrill of a common cause and who have no sympathy either above or below themselves in the social scale.

THOMAS ROBINSON,
Secretary Naval Construction Board.

Suggests That Children Till the Fields to Drive Down the High Cost of Living.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:
An easy solution to the vexed question of short crops is suggested:

Get Congress to permit the use of various parks—beauty spots—abounding in this city, for the cultivation of the lighter crops.

Assign each of them to the boys and girls in that immediate vicinity. Instead of providing playgrounds for idle pastime, create a rivalry as to results and let the boys and girls track in Lincoln Park and the Zoo for raising heavier crops for the allies—prices to be regulated by law. There are enough gardeners in the employ of the Government to act as teachers to start this scheme.